

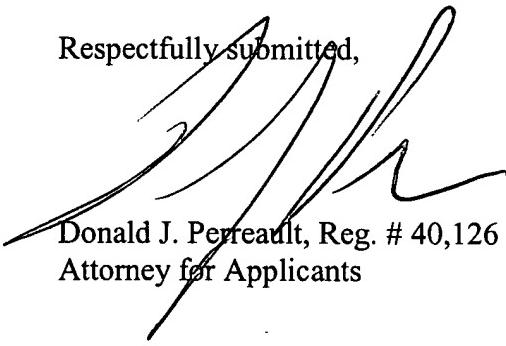
REMARKS

The present amendment is made to add an appropriate cross-reference to the parent application, and to present new claims for prosecution.

Applicants note the Examiner's citation of Huang (U.S. 6,256,138) in the parent application. Applicants respectfully submit that Huang is inapplicable to the present claims and to the claims against which it was cited in the parent application. In particular, Huang teaches a fiber filter 14 that allows a "laser light output" from a pump laser module 12 to pass through to a WDM device 16, but attenuates amplified spontaneous emission generated by an erbium doped fiber amplifier 18. Col. 1, lines 58-59; Col. 3, lines 14-16, lines 34-38. The pump laser module is not a noise source. Broadband noise may be generated by the EDFA, but it is not filtered by a filter between the EDFA and the WDM and/or is not combined into a source signal, as claimed.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 5-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donald J. Perreault, Reg. # 40,126  
Attorney for Applicants

GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT  
& PFLEGER, PLLC  
55 South Commercial Street  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Phone: (603)668-6560  
Fax: (603)668-2970